

REMARKS

The above Amendment and the following remarks are responsive to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004. The Applicant requests entry of this Amendment, favorable reconsideration of this case, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant's respectfully request that the Examiner consider Reference AR listed on the Form PTO-1449 filed on June 27, 2001. All other items listed thereon the Form PTO-1449 have been duly considered.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-81 are pending in the application. Claims 82-85 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-81 are allowed.

Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 82-85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Treyz et al. (US 6,587,835), in view of Ayyagari et al. (US 2002/0176366) for the reasons stated in the Office action.

Claims 82-85 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

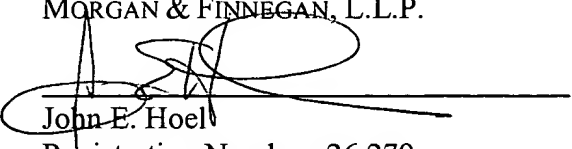
CONCLUSION

By the above amendment and remarks, the Applicants believe that all of the issues raised by the Examiner have been resolved. Accordingly, Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for timely consideration of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, including any extension of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4003.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.



John E. Hoel

Registration Number: 26,279

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053
202-857-7887 – phone
202-857-7929 – fax

Dated: June 22, 2004